

February 5, 2002

ORGANIZATION: NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) ON STATION BLACKOUT (SBO) ISSUES RELATED WITH LICENSE RENEWAL (LR)

On January 15, 2002, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff met with the NEI to continue the discussion that began with the January 10, 2002 meeting on the scope of SBO equipment relied on to meet the SBO rule that should be within the scope of LR. Attached are two handouts provided during the meeting and the list of meeting attendees (Attachment 1).

The meeting began with an NEI presentation (Attachment 2) on its understanding of the SBO rule, regulatory guidance, and plant-specific implementation pertinent to the SBO evaluation. The staff made a presentation to further clarify the basis for the staff's proposed position which was provided to NEI and Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) in a letter dated November 14, 2001, regarding SBO scoping for license renewal. In both presentations, the focus of discussion was on whether the offsite power components should be in the scope of LR for compliance with the SBO rule.

During the discussion, the staff stated that the SBO rule requires each plant to evaluate a specific SBO coping duration by considering redundancy and reliability of the onsite power sources, the expected frequency of loss of offsite power, and the probable time needed to restore offsite power. Since the offsite power was factored in the SBO coping duration, and the recovery time of ac power from offsite source is generally shorter than an onsite power source, the staff believes that the preferred power source for a SBO event recovery should be restoration of the offsite power. Therefore, the staff believes that the offsite power system components should be in the scope of LR.

NEI stated that once the coping duration is determined in accordance with the SBO rule, the rule allows recovery of a SBO event based on the plant's training and procedures and no specific power alignment, such as offsite power source is required. NEI also stated recovery of an SBO event only requires restoring an ac power source from the onsite, offsite, or alternate ac power source. Since the offsite power doesn't have to be used for recovering from an SBO event, an aging management review of the offsite power system is not necessary. On this basis, NEI believes that the components of the offsite power source should not be included in the scope of LR.

As a result of the discussion, both the staff and NEI achieved a better understanding of their respective positions. The staff agreed to further articulate its proposed position and forward it to NEI and UCS for comment. NEI, in turn, agreed to provide its comments to the staff by February 8, 2002. Another public meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2002.

***/RA/***

Peter J. Kang, Reactor Systems Engineer  
License Renewal Section  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 690

Attachments: As stated

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1-15-~.wpd

\*See Previous Concurrence

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SBO

January 15, 2002

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